In conjunction with the independence day celebrations, Jomo Kenyatta's government released more than 5,000 prisoners—both criminal and political—from jail. Full amnesties were also granted to leaders of the Mau Mau and the Land Freedom Army who had been exiled, for terrorist acts, to remote regions. Among those thus restored to active circulation is the famous Kariuki Chotar, who confessed to eighteen elaborate murders and is

Abroad

believed responsible for scores more. He escaped the death penalty because of his youth, when caught a few years ago. Many of the Mau Mau men who have been hiding in the forest—like the formidable "Field Marshal" Mwariama, whose photographed reunion with Kenyatta got global publicity—are old comrades of Kenyatta's, and are expected to become quickly influential in the new order.

ROME Wings Cracking

Although Signor Moro's new government, with Pietro Nenni sitting in the cabinet, has won a vote of confidence from the Assembly, the new political formation was not hammered together without causing cracks along both edges. The left wing of the Socialists, considering the deal an opening to the Right, not to the Left, condemns Nenni for "capitulation" and is moving toward a split. Analogously, the right wing of the Demochristians, led by former premiers Scelba and Pella, condemned Moro and Fanfani for capitulating to pro-Communists and abstained on the vote of confidence.

CAIRO Peking Salesman

Besides asking general approval for the Chinese Communist way of looking at the world and specific support of China over India, Chou En-lai has another idea he is anxious to sell his hosts during his current African safari. Everyone expects another big conference of the Third World in 1964. Chou wants it to be a second Bandung, not a second Belgrade. That is, he wants it to be Afro-Asian in composition and strictly anti-colonial in content: under which compound formula Peking would expect to be present, as in 1955 at Bandung, but the Soviet Union would be absent. The Belgrade Conference of 1961 was for the "non-aligned" world and made "peace" as important a topic as "anti-colonialism," thus excluding Communist China on both counts.

MOSCOW TV Behind the Curtain

The Communist leadership has decided to push for more rapid development of television, which it regards as the decisive contemporary means of propaganda and indoctrination. Castro and de Gaulle are considered the pace setters in political use of TV. The Communists are especially interested in expanding the utilization of "Intervision," the Iron Curtain TV network, to counter the centrifugal tendencies, both ideological and nationalistic, that are now plaguing the Communist bloc.

KAU'MA, YEMEN War's Toll

Jointly subsidized by the U.S. and the USSR, Nasser's war in the Yemen rages on. The U.S. State Department warning two months ago to Nasser to pull his troops out of the Yemen or else suffer the loss of further American aid to the United Arab Republic, has apparently come to nothing. Nasser has not moved, and Imam Mohammed al Badr, the deposed royalist ruler who continues to resist Soviet-built planes, bombs, rockets and napalm from his mountain headquarters in North Yemen, has had to renew his protest to the U.S. Government. In a letter to President Johnson, the Imam wrote: "It is conservatively estimated that more than 50,000 of our people have been killed and between a third and a half of these victims have been women, children and elderly people. Why do they kill us? What did we do to the Egyptian people?" There has been no word from President Johnson.



The Serenaders

WARSAW Hitchhiking, Communist Style

Hitchhiking in Poland is on an organized basis that is now being extended to Russia and other Iron Curtain nations. Several years ago, on the proposal of a youth magazine, the "Civic Hitchhiking Committee" was formed. It issues hitchhiking identification cards to accredited members, compiles the official hitchhiking rules, covers members with insurance, and has lately begun to open hitchhikers' camps. When a car stops, the hitchhiker hands the driver his membership card, which has attached coupons, each with his identification number. At the end of the ride, the driver gets a number of coupons corresponding to the distance covered; and the Civic Hitchhiking Committee awards prizes each year to the drivers who have collected the most coupons. (The coupon also provides proof of identification in case of accident or trouble.) The Committee is a voluntary, cooperative enterprise, with no state subsidy; its funds come from membership fees, and it has shown a surplus every year.

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